

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This response is filed along with a Request for Continued Examination. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 has been amended in response to the Section 112 rejection.

Independent claims 1, 7 and 16 have all been amended to specify that the connecting bridges are arranged like or formed as elbow levers. This construction is not suggested by either Zimmer or Ohashi. The term “elbow lever” must be interpreted in light of Applicants’ specification and drawings. In that light, it is clear that the cited references do not teach or suggest elbow levers.

Therefore, independent claims 1, 7 and 16 and dependent claims 3, 4, 6, 8-12, 14, 15 and 19-26 are allowable.

New claim 21 depends from claim 1 and further specifies that each of the connecting bridges includes an elbow connected to the tube. This limitation is supported in Paragraph 19 of Applicants’ specification and is shown in Fig. 1 of the drawings. Neither Zimmer nor Ohashi suggests the claimed elbow connect to the tube. Claim 21 therefore includes additional patentable subject matter.

New claim 22 depends from claim 21 and further specifies that each of the connecting bridges includes generally linear portions extending from the elbow, one of the generally linear portions being connected to the holding element and the other of the generally linear portions being connected to the stub, and the generally linear portions defining an obtuse angle having a vertex defined by the elbow. This limitation is shown in Fig. 1 of the drawings. Neither Zimmer nor Ohashi suggests the claimed generally linear portions defining an obtuse angle having a vertex defined by the elbow. Claim 22 therefore includes additional patentable subject matter.

Claims 23 and 24 are similar to claims 21 and 22 but depend from claim 7.

Claims 25 and 26 are similar to claims 21 and 22 but depend from claim 16.

In view of the foregoing, entry of the above amendment and allowance of claims 1, 3, 4, 6-12, 14-16 and 19-26 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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